

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1180

By Woodson

A RESOLUTION to call for the review, study and recommendations necessary to address the reduction and/or redistribution of local education funding relative to increased state education funding.

WHEREAS, in its 2007 session, the 105th Tennessee General Assembly passed into law the revised funding formula for state-level funding of K-12 public education in Tennessee known as "BEP 2.0"; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the General Assembly in adopting BEP 2.0 that the amended funding formula and increased funds were to increase operating revenue correspondingly for K-12 LEAs throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this legislative intent was not fully achieved insofar as an apparent misunderstanding occurred between state and local government relative to the ultimate allocation of increased funds provided through BEP 2.0; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is dedicated to the cause of working with all local governments across the state toward improving public education in Tennessee and is resolved to increase the resources available to K-12 LEAs in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it may be necessary to adopt certain measures to provide greater clarity regarding the obligations of counties and municipalities in funding their respective LEAs, particularly in light of the passage of BEP 2.0; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the Basic Education Program Review Committee shall conduct a thorough study of the funding policies of counties and municipalities across Tennessee in response to the passage of BEP 2.0 as well as the existing statutes and Tennessee Department of Education

regulations governing local maintenance of effort funding requirements and what steps should be taken to update such requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BEP Review Committee shall include within its 2008 report the following elements:

1. A report detailing the steps taken by each county and municipality in Tennessee in which local education budgets or funding generation levels were amended;
2. A statement of the LEA funding lost throughout Tennessee as a result of such amendments to LEA budgets or funding generation levels;
3. A statement regarding current local maintenance of effort funding requirements upon counties and municipalities and whether those statutory and regulatory requirements should be amended to achieve the goals stated herein; and
4. Recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor for legislative actions that should be taken to protect state-level funding increases for K-12 public education in Tennessee from redirection by counties and municipalities across the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Basic Education Program Review Committee be urged to submit its findings relative to this resolution no later than November 1, 2008, within its existing deadline for the presentation of its annual report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Basic Education Program Review Committee at the State Board of Education.